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A LETTER FROM PROFESSOR JAMES.

Among the philosophers of to-day there is scarcely any more interesting figure than that of Prof. William James of Harvard ; and his philosophy, which, adopting an expression of Mr. Chas. S. Peirce, he calls pragmatism, is as broadly before the public as any system of thought. Our readers will therefore be glad to find in the present number an article by Prof. Edwin Tausch on "The Great Pragmatist," which is written in a sympathetic tone, and Professor James himself has perused this psychological analysis of his mental makeup. He gives expression to his sentiments on the subject in these words :

"I have read with great relish your diagnosis of my case. . . . I am astounded at the knowledge you show of my *ipsissima verba*, and it gives me a queer feeling to be treated so philologically. I find your account of my evolution instructive, though I am hardly able to criticize it as one might who knew me from without. I can't tell about utilitarianism—I didn't come to it unaided, but was taught it by Chauncey Wright, whose anti-religious teaching, however, I reacted against. I think you overdo my personal mysticism. It has always seemed to me rather a matter of fair play to the various kinds of experience to let mystical ecstasy have its voice counted with the rest. As far as I am personally concerned it is the ordinary sense of life that every working moment brings, that makes me contemptuous of rationalistic attempts to substitute thin logical formulas for it. My *flux*-philosophy may well have to do with my extremely impatient temperament. I am a motor, need change, and get very quickly bored.

"I say nothing of your general plan of tracing beliefs to temperamental needs. I believe it is in essence quite sound, though hard to rescue from the appearance of superficiality. In sum, I have found the essay extraordinarily competent and interesting."

I will add that we owe the opportunity of publishing Professor Tausch's analysis of "the great pragmatist" to Professor James himself, who advised the author that his article might be a welcome contribution to *The Monist*, and we wish to express our indebtedness for this suggestion to Professor James publicly. We take it as an evidence that our critical review of pragmatism has not been amiss but is received in the spirit in which it was written.

EDITOR.